

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the non-final Office Action dated April 28, 2009. In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Piovaccari et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,229,289).

The Examiner argues that Piovaccari et al. discloses "a DC/DC voltage regulator (figure 1-4), including a linear regulator with a linear drop out feedback signal (figure 3, item 105 and 106), a switch-mode regulator with switch-mode (PWM) feedback signal (figure 3, item 101, 103, 104 and 106) and a feedback network with error amplifier (column 6-8, line 1-65 and figure 4)". Applicants respectfully disagree. Instead, **reference numeral 105 of Piovaccari is a LDO controller** (column 4, line 55 and figure 3), not a linear regulator.

Piovaccari discloses: "a converter 100 includes a Low Dropout controller (LDO) 105, a Pulse Width Modulation controller (PWM) 104, current control devices 101-103, a feedback signal 106, a mode controller 109, a reference generator 110, and various passive components". See Col. 4, lines 54-59. Piovaccari goes on to state that: "the control signal for current control device 101 is controlled by the outputs of LDO 105 or PWM 104". Col. 4, lines 63-64. In contrast, the claimed invention does not adopt such a solution of controlling the control signal for current device 101 by the outputs of LDO 105 or PWM 104.

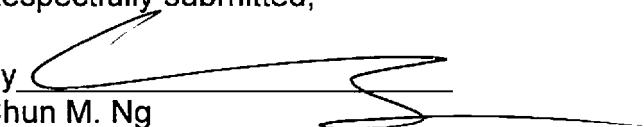
Instead, each of the independent claims include limitations that are not fairly shown in Piovaccari. Specifically, as noted above, there is no "linear drop out (LDO) feedback signal" to the linear regulator. Therefore, all of the claims are patentable over Piovaccari.

In view of the above remarks, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 386168020US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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